

P22118.A01

4. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is a compound of formula (2) wherein Me is lithium.

5. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1), m is an integer of 1 to 21.

6. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is any of:  
a compound of formula (2) wherein R is an aliphatic group having 4 or more carbon atoms, a compound of formula (2) wherein R is an aromatic group and Y is -S-; or a compound of formula (2) wherein R is  $-\text{CH}(\text{R}^{20})\text{CONR}^{21}\text{R}^{22}$  wherein  $\text{R}^{20}$  represents an aliphatic group and of  $\text{R}^{21}$  and  $\text{R}^{22}$  independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group.

8. (Amended) A cyclic lactic acid oligomer, which is produced by the method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to claim 1.